Consumer Sense Notes

By OCIE M. MACK
Extension Agent

Many consumers will be purchasing and using more extension cords during the Christmas Season than any other time during the year. It is most important to think safety and select and use the right extension cord for the right application. Improper use and overloading of electrical extension cords is a contributing factor in about 20 fires occuring each day in homes across the nation.

In issuing a product safety alert on extension cords, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate that there are some 7,400 fires each year involving extension cords in residential dwellings. Such fires cause 80 deaths, 260 injuries, and property damage estimated at $74 million or $10,000 per fire.

Twenty percent of the fires originating in home electrical wiring systems involved extension cords. About 50 percent of the extension cord fires were believed to have been caused by overloading the cord. External damage of the cord and improper alteration of the cord were other suspected causes.

The type of extension cord most frequently used in the home is of light duty construction, and is often called "lamp cord" because of its similarity to cord found on table and floor lamps. Such light duty extension cords should only be used with small electrical loads. Table lamps, clocks and radios are among the products which may be used with such cords. These light duty cords are not designed for rough use with vacuum cleaners or portable tools.

The following is a list of safety guidelines to follow:

*Don't overload an extension cord by plugging too many products into the cord. The common #18 guage electrical cord is noted for a maximum of 10 amperes. The rating assumes the cord is not bundled together and not covered by carpet or rugs. Routing a cord under a carpet or rug is a very dangerous practice that can lead to a short circuit and fire.

*Since light duty extension cords like these are often rated for a 10 ampere electrical load, they can accommodate small appliances in the home. However, they may not handle one high-current appliance such as a portable electric heater.

*Select the right extension cord for the right application. For example, when using electrical lawn and garden equipment, use only a cord specifically marked for outdoor use and which also contains a third "safety grounding" wire (unless you are using only tools labeled as "double insulated" which require only a two-wire cord).

*Purchase extension cords carrying a listing mark or certification by a recognized independent testing laboratory. Do not purchase cords whose packaging fails to report the cord's maximum current and/or wattage rating. Always follow cautionary information provided with the extension cord.

*Don't cut or splice cords together for any reason to create a new cord. It is too dangerous to use spliced cords because splices are weak links that can cause fires. Wrapping splices with electrical tape does not make them sufficiently rugged. By a new extension cord for the job so you don't run the risk of creating a new hazard with the old cords.

*Finally use cords with a UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) label of approval. Be sure cords are in good condition. Check for overloading circuits. Keep cords away from traffic areas and identify the proper types of cords for outdoor lighting.

JAMEE HALL'S first-grade students at Appomattox Primary School are busy here counting their "money" and checking the selection of toys they can buy. The students are participating in a project to make them more aware of economics. They receive prescribed amounts of money for various jobs well done, and may use their "earnings" to purchase the items for sale.

Students get experience in 'economic dealings'

James Hall's first-grade students at Appomattox Primary School have been learning about economics.

In order to better understand an economic system, these first graders have been earning play money for jobs well done. On Friday, Nov. 30, they had the opportunity to spend their "money" at a "classroom flea-market," a technique suggested by Patricia Torrence, of the Center for Economic Education. Many parents donated items to make this flea-market a reality.

The children who participated in this project are Brandon Allen, Sharon Jackson, Jeff Martin, Thomas Mays, Bobby Morris, Bryan Simpson, Donald Somers, Chris Swanberg, Kevin Walker, John Williams, Seth Wilkerson, Jimmy Hall, William Roark, Rindy Bohannon, Brandy Chambers, Anna Cuccio, Tameka Daniels, Chrysti Frazier, Jessica Guill, Melissa Martin, Crystal Newman, Leah Slade, Michele Stanley, Amy Wilson, and Vashauna Woolridge.

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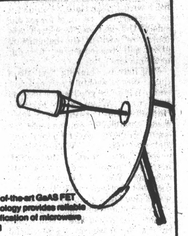

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Carriage restoration set

The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation announced this week that it will restore a rare 19th century carriage that had been on display at Red Hill Shrine for nearly 30 years.

The restoration work is being performed by Gap Carriage Company of Pennsylvania at a cost of nearly $6,000.

Known as a Six-Seat Rockaway, the vehicle was built prior to the Civil War and sold by a Richmond carriage builder to a wealthy plantation owner in Nottoway County. It was donated to the foundation in the late 1950's.

"We have a carriage that is seldom seen today in this country", said Shrine Director Patrick Daily. "I have been told by an expert that it may be a missing link in the history of American carriage development", he added.

The restoration is being financed through public contributions Daily said that most of the amount needed has been raised, but additional donations are being sought to complete the work.

Red Hill is the last home and burial site of Patrick Henry and is located in Charlotte County near Brookneal.

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Correction

In last week's issue of the Times-Virginian, Lisa Woodall's name was omitted from the 8th Grade Honor Roll "A".

AMS Menu

APPOMATTOX MIDDLE SCHOOL MENU

Monday, Dec. 17: Corn dogs, pork & beans, french fries, fruit, milk.
Tuesday, Dec. 18: Sloppy Joe, slaw, black eye peas, roll, milk.
Wednesday, Dec. 19: Ham, candied yams, string beans, fruit, milk.
Thursday, Dec. 20: Hot dogs, slaw, french fries, donut, milk.

Arts/Crafts Center to close

The Historic Appomattox Station Arts and Crafts Center will close for the winter months soon.

The shop, located in the old Norfolk and Western Railroad Station on Main Street will close Wednesday, Dec. 19 and re-open about April 1, 1985.

Members are asked to collect any unsold items on consignment during the last day of operations, Wednesday, Dec. 19 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

If you planned on shopping for locally made arts and crafts before Christmas, be sure that you stop by the depot before the closing date. Then, be sure to watch for notice in the Times-Virginian about reopening of the Arts and Crafts Center in the spring.

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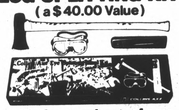

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Times-Virginian
SPORTS

Raiders drop Buckingham

Appomattox scored a resounding 58-38 win against Buckingham Friday night, following a hard-fought 63-61 loss to Liberty in varsity basketball action last week.

In Tuesday's loss to Liberty, the Raiders led at the end of the first quarter 13-12, but Liberty came back to outscore Appomattox 18-12 in the second period. The Raiders made up some of that ground in the third quarter, scoring 13 points to Liberty's 10. In the final period, both teams heated up offensively, but the 23 points scored by Appomattox were matched by Liberty, and the Minutemen's two-point advantage held.

Four Raiders scored in double figures for Appomattox, with Mike Jackson scoring 22 points, Kinckle Robinson 12, Tim Austin 11, and Jack Baker 10 points. Lee Drinkard, Jeff Motley and Brett Marston each scored two points for Appomattox, as well.

Jeff Witt was high scorer for Liberty, with 21 points. Other Liberty players scoring in double figures were Jerome Thompson with 13 points, Kevin Waters with 13, and Junior Coles with 10 points.

"It was a game we could have won," commented Raider coach Coty Dickerson after the Liberty contest. "They shot extremely well from the floor, and we had some turnovers that hurt us."

Friday night's game against Buckingham was a different matter, however. While both teams started slow, Appomattox opened up a lead in the second quarter which was built into a 20-point margin by the end of the game.

The Raiders led 21-14 at the end of the first half, and extended that lead to 40-30 by the end of the third quarter. In the final period, the Raiders scored 18 points while holding Buckingham to eight, recording to team's initial victory of the young season, 58-38.

Tim Austin and Mike Jackson scored in double figures for Appomattox, with 16 and 13 points, respectively. Others scoring for the Raiders were Jack Baker with 7 points, Kinckle Robinson and Neal Kelso with 6 points each, Jeff Motely with four points, and Tom Cobb, Alex Almond and Darren Tolley with 2 points each.

Johnny White and Rusty Land each scored 10 points to lead Buckingham offensively.

"It was good to get our first win, and good that everyone contributed to the win," Dickerson said after the game. Everyone played, and the team worked together well as a unit. This win was a total team effort," the coach added.

The Raiders were scheduled to play Gretna Tuesday night after the Time-Virginian deadline. This Friday night, the team finishes its pre-holiday schedule with a game at Brookville.

After the holidays, the team opens Jan. 4 at Nelson County, and on Jan 5 Appomattox will play Amherst at Amherst.

Basketball clinic set

The Appomattox County Little League will hold a basketball clinic for all players who have signed up to participate in the league this year.

The clinic will be held at the Appomattox County High School gymnasium on Saturday, Dec. 15.

The clinic will run from 9 to 10 a.m. for players ages 8 through 11; and from 10 to 11 a.m. for players ages 12 through 15.

Anyone who has not signed up for the clinic before Dec. 15 may sign up the day of the clinic, at the gym.

Soft Touch

APPOMATTOX COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL varsity basketball center Mike Jackson puts the soft touch on a layup shot in Friday night's 58-38 Raider victory against Buckingham High School. Jackson was second high scorer in the game for Appomattox with 13 points, behind Tim Austin, who scored 16 points. Raider coach Coty Dickerson was pleased with the play of the team against the Knights, noting that everyone on the team contributed to the victory.

Jayvees lose openers

The Raider jayvee basketball team lost 52-37 in last Tuesday's game against Liberty, and lost 56-47 Friday evening against Buckingham.

Keith Robertson was high scorer against Liberty, with 14 points. "He played a good game offensively, and John Fedison and Tony Martin played well on defense against Liberty," commented coach Bob Hudson after the game.

Against Buckingham, Calvin Ligon was high scorer for the Raiders, with 9 points.

In the second quarter, Buckingham outscored Appomattox 23-12, but the Raiders came back in the fourth quarter, outscoring Buckingham 23-4 to make the game closer.

"In both games, the other teams' fast breaks and rebounding strength were what killed us," Hudson said. "We are working hard on those aspects of our game now in practice."

The jayvee team was scheduled to play Gretna Tuesday after the Time-Virginian deadline. Friday night the team will play Brookville at Brookville.

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